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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 05 KADUNA 00365

LONDON FOR MCKINLEY; PARIS FOR PERLOW
LAGOS PASS TO ABUJA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
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SUBJECT: THE LAST GASP FROM KADUNA: WHO'S WHO

11. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT

12. THE FOLLOWING CABLE PROVIDES BIOGRAPHIC DATA REFLECTING THE CONSUL GENERAL'S CONTACTS THROUGHOUT THE NORTH OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. THE SKETCHES DO NOT AIM TO REPRODUCE MATERIAL MOST LIKELY ALREADY AVAILABLE IN AF AND INR FILES, BUT RATHER TO GIVE IMPRESSIONS AND ASSESSMENTS OF CHARACTER AND OPINION. IT IS COMPLETED A HALF HOUR BEFORE CG'S DEPARTURE FOR RETIREMENT AND, THEREFORE, SUFFERED FROM LACK OF EDITING AND COMPLETENESS. PLEASE FORGIVE|

HRADITIONALSRLERS

13. IBRAHIM DASUKI, SULTAN OF SOKOTO. MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT THE SULTAN, BUT IT IS PERHAPS WORTH REITERATING THAT HIS POPULARITY AS NOT RISEN IN THE FIVE YEARS SINCE HE HAS OCCUPIED THE THRONE. HIS LAVISH PALACE RENOVATIONS ARE VIEWED BY MANY AS TOTALLY AT ODDS WITH ISLAMIC INJUNCTION. HE IS A SMART, SOPHISTICATED MAN, BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO DISCERN THE DEGREE OF VENALITY HE HAS CARRIED OVER FROM HIS BCCI DAYS AND HIS ASSOCIATION WITH GENERAL BABANGIDA, TO WHOM HE OWES HIS ELECTION TO THE THRONE. SEVERAL OF THE SULTAN'S SONS HAVE STUDIED IN THE UNITED STATES AND AT LEAST A COUPLE OF HAVE SECOND HOMES IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

14. ALHAJI SHEHU IDRIS, EMIR OF ZARIA. THE EMIR OF ZARIA, OR SARKIN ZAZZAU TO GIVE HIM HIS HAUSA TITLE, IS A FREQUENT INTERLOCUTOR OF EMBASSY AND CONSULATE PERSONNEL. HE LOOKS FOR EXCHANGES WITH FOREIGN DIPLOMATS ON BOTH POLITICAL QUESTIONS AND HIS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE IN KADUNA STATE. HE IS DEEPLY DISTRUSTED BY THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES IN SOUTHERN KADUNA STATE, WHO SEE HIM AS A MAJOR IMPEDIMENT TO THEIR ENJOYING FULL POLITICAL AND PROPERTY RIGHTS IN THE STATE. NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED EASY ACCESS TO THE EMIR WHO IS FRIENDLY AND AS OPEN AS THESE RULERS CAN BE.

15. ALHAJI ADO BAYERO, EMIR OF KANO. THE EMIR OF KANO IS SOMEWHAT MORE FORMAL WITH US AND IT CAN BE MORE DIFFICULT TO GET AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM, BUT HE, LIKE HIS FELLOW EMIRS, IS ALWAYS FRIENDLY AND INTERESTING TO TALK TO. HE TRAVELS FREQUENTLY TO THE UNITED STATES, BOTH ON PRIVATE TRIPS AND, OCCASIONALLY, TO VISIT VARIOUS NIGERIAN COMMUNITIES AND CULTURAL EVENTS. HE WAS A DIPLOMAT PRIOR TO TAKING THE TITLE THIRTY YEARS AGO AND IS, THEREFORE, EASY WITH OTHER DIPLOMATS. HE IS REGARDED BY NORTHERN NIGERIANS TO BE MUCH STUFFIER THAN THE EMIRS OF ZARIA OR KATSINA; ONE INTERLOCUTOR CLOSE TO THE KATSINA EMIRATE WAS VISIBLY SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT THE KANO EMIR ROUTINELY SHOOK THE HAND OF THE (FEMALE) CONSUL GENERAL, SOMETHING THAT, TRADITIONALLY, HE SHOULD NOT DO. (ALL OTHER EMIRS BUT THE SULTAN OF SOKOTO HAVE EXTENDED THEIR HAND TO THE CONSUL GENERAL.)

PRESS

¶6. MALAM MOHAMMED HARUNA, MANAGING DIRECTOR, CITIZEN PUBLICATIONS. HARUNA IS A VERY BRIGHT YOUNG JOURNALIST WHO IS AT THE HEAD OF ONE OF THE MORE INTERESTING WEEKLY MAGAZINES IN NIGERIA. THE CITIZEN WAS FOUNDED, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF ALHAJI TURI MUHAMMADU, BY A GROUP OF REBELS FROM THE NEW NIGERIAN WHO WERE UNHAPPY AT THAT PAPER'S LOSS OF EDITORIAL INDEPENDENCE. ALTHOUGH HARUNA (AND HIS MAGAZINE) TAKE STRONG PRO-ISLAMIC STANDS, THE MAGAZINE IS WELL WRITTEN AND ARGUED, A HAPPY EXCEPTION IN JOURNALISM IN NIGERIA. PERSONALLY, HARUNA IS FRIENDLY TO AMERICAN DIPLOMATS, HAPPY TO SPEAK WITH US AND ANY VISITORS WE MAY HAVE, AND WILL UNFAILINGLY RESPECT ANY REQUEST THAT DISCUSSIONS BE OFF THE RECORD. THIS PERMITS US TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT BACKGROUND DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM AND HIS EDITOR, BILKISU YUSUF (SEE BELOW).

¶7. HAJIYA BILKISU YUSUF, EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN MAGAZINE. YUSUF IS NOT ONLY A LEADING JOURNALIST IN NORTHERN NIGERIA, BUT SHE IS ALSO A SIGNIFICANT WOMEN'S ACTIVIST AND MEMBER OF "FOMWON" -- FEDERATION OF MUSLIM WOMEN OF NIGERIA. SHE IS EXTREMELY WELL EDUCATED IN ISLAM AND IS OBSERVANT IN WAYS THAT LEAD US TO BELIEVE SHE MAY BE A MEMBER OF THE DARIKA SECT. SHE FASTS EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY, AND WILL ABSOLUTELY NOT SHAKE HANDS WITH MEN. SHE HAS STRONG TIES TO ISLAMIC SCHOLARS IN SUDAN AND TRAVELS THERE FREQUENTLY. WE HAVE FOUND HER TO BE FRIENDLY AND OPEN IN DISCUSSIONS. CURRENTLY, SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE NIPSS STUDY CLASS, AND IS RESIDENT IN JOS FOR THE PERIOD.

¶8. GARBA SHEHU, MANAGING DIRECTOR, TRIUMPH NEWSPAPERS. GARBA SHEHU PRESIDES OVER A STATE-OWNED PRESS OPERATION THAT IS PERPETUALLY STARVED OF FUNDS AND SUBJECT TO THE VAGARIES OF GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PRESS. THIS SAID, HE IS A BRIGHT MAN, ALWAYS READY TO SEE AMERICAN DIPLOMATS, AND, LIKE HARUNA AT THE CITIZEN, IS PUNCTILIOUS ABOUT HONORING "BACKGROUND" RULES. WE HAVE HAD LONG AND FULL CONVERSATIONS WITH GARBA SHEHU AND HIS EDITORIAL BOARD; THEY ASK TOUGH BUT FAIR QUESTIONS. GARBA SHEHU IS WIDELY RESPECTED BY MANY OF THE NORTHERN ELDERS, PARTLY BECAUSE HE IS THE TREASURER FOR THE BAREWA OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION (THE SECONDARY SCHOOL A LARGE NUMBER OF THE NORTHERN ELITES HAVE ATTENDED) AND WORKS HARD FOR THE ALMA MATER.

¶9. ALHAJI TURI MUHAMMADU, NOW RETIRED BUT CHAIRMAN OF THE CITIZEN AND A FORMER EDITOR OF NEW NIGERIAN NEWSPAPERS. ALSO A FORMER NORTHERN MANAGER, UTC. TURI MUHAMMADU, WHO COMES FROM NIGER STATE, IS A THOUGHTFUL AND VERY INTERESTING INTERLOCUTOR, A RARE NIGERIAN WHO READS VORACIOUSLY AND INTELLIGENTLY. (IN THE PAST YEAR, WE HAVE PASSED HIM COPIES OF THE GEORGE SCHULZ AUTOBIOGRAPHY WHICH HE DEVoured IN A COUPLE OF DAYS AND FOLLOWED IT UP WITH THE MCCULLOUGH BIOGRAPHY OF TRUMAN.) HE IS SHY AND GENERALLY DOES NOT COME TO CONSULATE PARTIES, BUT IS WILLING TO HAVE ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS AND IS AN INFORMED AND SERIOUS CONTACT.

¶10. ALHAJI ISMAILA ISA, MANAGING DIRECTOR, DEMOCRAT NEWSPAPER, AND CHAIRMAN OF BULET, A CONSTRUCTION FIRM. ISMAILA ISA WAS RAISED IN THE HOME OF HIS UNCLE, NORTHERN ELDER ISA KAITA, AND COMES FROM FUNTUA IN KATSINA STATE. HE IS ALSO THE LANDLORD OF THE CONSULATE OFFICE BUILDING. IN OUR CONTACTS WITH HIM, WE HAVE FOUND HIM TO BE A MAN OF SHALLOW OPINION AND CONSIDERABLE PREJUDICE AGAINST AMERICANS. HE CAN BE VERY KIND ON THOSE OCCASIONS WHEN WE HAVE BEEN IN A FIX (SAY, WITH TWO FLAT TIRES ON THE ABUJA ROAD), SO IT GOES AGAINST THE GRAIN TO CRITICIZE, BUT HIS NEWSPAPER TAKES OFTEN IRRESPONSIBLE POSITIONS AND HE CLAIMS NO CONTROL OVER IT. HA|

BUSINESS

¶11. ALHAJI AMINU DANTATA. AMINU DANTATA IS THE PATRIARCH OF THE DANTATA ORGANIZATION, A FAMILY FIRM INVOLVED IN TRADING AND AGRIBUSINESS ENTERPRISES. AMINU DANTATA IS A DEVOUT MOSLEM, A PHILANTHROPIST TO ISLAMIC AND OTHER CHARITIES ON A AWESOME SCALE, AND PART OF AN ENORMOUS FAMILY. HIMSELF ONE OF SEVERAL BROTHERS/COUSINS, HE HAS FOUR WIVES AND TWENTY-SEVEN CHILDREN. IN OUR PRIVATE CONTACTS, HE HAS BEEN OPEN ABOUT HIS DOUBTS ABOUT THE UTILITY OF DEMOCRACY FOR NIGERIA, BELIEVING IT IS A NON-INDIGENOUS SYSTEM BEING IMPOSED BY THE WEST FOR PROBABLY GOOD, BUT MISPLACED, INTENTIONS. HE IS RELATIVELY UNFORTHCOMING ABOUT HIS OWN BUSINESS OR GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN KANO, HIS HOME BASE. NEVERTHELESS, HE IS ALWAYS READY TO SEE CONSULATE AND EMBASSY VISITORS AND IS RELAXED AND FRIENDLY. HE MAINTAINS A HOME IN SAUDI ARABIA WHERE HE SPENDS A GOOD DEAL OF TIME EACH YEAR DURING THE HAJJ AND UMMRA. HIS CHILDREN HAVE MOSTLY GONE TO SCHOOL IN SAUDI ARABIA AND THEN ON TO UNIVERSITY IN MIAMI (FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY) FOR THE BOYS AND BAYERO UNIVERSITY KANO (FOR THE GIRLS). AMINU DANTATA ALSO HAS HOUSES IN FLORIDA AND GENERALLY A TROUP OF THE FAMILY GOES ON SUMMER HOLIDAY IN THE U.S. (DANTATA DAY IN THE VISA SECTION IS A BUSY TIME.)

¶12. ALHAJI TAJUDEEN DANTATA, THE SON OF AMINU DANTATA WHO IS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE ORGANIZATION AND IS BEING GROOMED TO TAKE OVER THE OPERATION. TAJUDEEN DANTATA IS YOUNG (PROBABLY AROUND 30), AND LOOKS YOUNGER, BUT IS THE CHOSEN SUCCESSOR TO TAKE OVER THE FAMILY FIRM. APPARENTLY HIS OLDER BROTHER WAS MEANT TO BE THE HEIR BUT WAS KILLED IN A POLO ACCIDENT, SO TAJUDEEN HAS ONLY RECENTLY ASSUMED THE MANTLE. HE IS OPEN TO CONTACT WITH AMERICAN DIPLOMATS AND, LIKE MOST NORTHERN BUSINESSMEN, KEEPS HIS FAMILY IN KANO WHILE HE LIVES PART-TIME IN LAGOS AND TRAVELS THE WORLD.

¶13. MUNZALI DANTATA, A COUSIN OF THE TWO ABOVE, IS THE PROPRIETOR OF ALL STATES TRAVEL, A FIRM WITH THE AGENCY FOR SAUDIA AIRLINES IN LAGOS. HE IS SOMEWHAT INDEPENDENT OF THE BUSINESS INTERESTS OF THE MAIN BRANCH OF THE FAMILY AND PRIDES HIMSELF ON BUILDING UP HIS TRAVEL AGENCY. HE ADMIRES THE U.S. AND WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP A TOURIST LINK WITH AMERICA, BUT MAY BE SOMEWHAT UNREALISTIC ABOUT HOW MUCH WORK WILL HAVE TO BE DONE TO PRODUCE AN ATTRACTIVE TOURIST INFRASTRUCTURE FOR AMERICANS. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF A RECENTLY PUBLISHED GUIDEBOOK ON ABUJA AND RUNS BUS TOURS OF THE NEW CAPITAL AS PART OF HIS ENDEAVORS. HE IS AN ENTHUSIASTIC AND ENTERPRISING GUY.

¶14. WAZIRI MOHAMMED, A SON-IN-LAW OF AMINU DANTATA, IS A DIRECTOR OF PACIFIC MERCHANT BANK IN LAGOS. HE IS KANURI AND COMES FROM MAIDUGURI WHERE HIS FAMILY LIVES. LAGOS HAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ON WAZIRI MOHAMMED AND HIS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE KINGIBE CAMPAIGN. WE UNDERSTAND FROM A PREVIOUS POLITICAL COUNSELOR IN LAGOS THAT WAZIRI MOHAMMED HAS CLOSE LINKS WITH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE. HE IS A FOREIGN SERVICE BRAT, AND THUS QUITE SOPHISTICATED AND WELL-TRAVELED. HE HAS BEEN VERY FRIENDLY BOTH WITH CONSULATE KADUNA AND EMBASSY LAGOS PERSONNEL.

¶15. ALIKO DANGOTE, RELATED THROUGH HIS MOTHER TO THE DANTATA CLAN (HER FATHER WAS A BROTHER TO AMINU DANTATA'S FATHER), IS THE CHAIRMAN (AT AGE 35) OF THE DANGOTE GROUP OF COMPANIES. THE DANGOTE FATHER DIED EARLY AND THE FAMILY COMPANY IS NOW CONDUCTED BY A GROUP OF BROTHERS, THE PRINCIPAL ONES OF WHOM ARE SANI AND BELLO (SEE BELOW). ALIKO, LIKE AMINU DANTATA, IS A MAJOR FIGURE AT MANY CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING EVENTS. HE HAS JUST MARRIED FOR THE THIRD TIME -- LIKE AMERICANS, HIS MARRIAGES HAVE BEEN SERIAL RATHER THAN POLYGAMOUS. THE DANGOTES HAVE HOMES IN KANO, LAGOS, LONDON, AND ATLANTA AND, LIKE THE DANTATAS, TAKE A LARGE GROUP OF FAMILY MEMBERS FOR AN AMERICAN HOLIDAY EVERY SUMMER.

¶16. SANI DANGOTE, BROTHER TO ALIKO, IS THE BROTHER WHO

WATCHES OVER THE FAMILY TEXTILE, OILFIELD SERVICES, AND COMMODITY (COCOA, SUGAR) TRADING OPERATIONS. HE HAS JUST CONCLUDED A LICENSING AGREEMENT TO PRODUCE NUTRASWEET IN NIGERIA, TO REDUCE COSTS OF SWEETENERS THE FIRM PROVIDES TO SOFT DRINK MANUFACTURERS. SANI DANGOTE IS A PASSIONATE POLO PLAYER. HE IS NOT PARTICULARLY WELL EDUCATED, HAVING ATTENDED A COMMERCIAL COLLEGE IN KANO. HE ADMIRES AMERICANS AND SEEKS TO DO BUSINESS IN AMERICA. HE IS AN OPEN, FRIENDLY, AND ENTERTAINING INTERLOCUTOR. SANI DANGOTE IS MARRIED WITH FOUR CHILDREN, ONE OF THEM BORN IN THE U.S.

¶17. BELLO DANGOTE IS THE BROTHER CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FAMILY BANK, LIBERTY MERCHANT. HE WAS EDUCATED IN ITALY AS AN ENGINEER. HE IS MARRIED, TO A SISTER OF SANI DANGOTE'S WIFE, AND HAS THREE CHILDREN, TWO OF THEM BORN IN THE U.S. LIKE HIS BROTHERS, HE IS FRIENDLY TO AMERICANS.

¶18. ALHAJI BASHIR BORODO IS A BUSINESSMAN ON A MORE MODEST SCALE THAN THE CLANS DESCRIBED ABOVE. HE IS THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ONE OF THE DANTATA COMPANIES (A FERTILIZER MIXING PLANT IN KANO STATE) AND THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE FORMERLY STATE-OWNED BANK, TROPICAL COMMERCIAL BANK, THAT HAS NOW PRIVATIZED. HE ALSO HAS HIS OWN BUSINESS, BORODO AND CO., THAT PRODUCES ICE BLOCKS, EXPORTS MOTORBIKES, AND ENGAGES IN OTHER MIXES OF TRADING. HE WAS TRAINED (IN CAIRO) AS AN ECONOMIST AND JOINED THE NIGERIAN FOREIGN SERVICE. ONE OF HIS POSTINGS WAS AT THE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON (FROM ABOUT 1978 TO 1980) WHERE THE DESK OFFICERS FOUND HIM THE STRONGEST DIPLOMAT AT THE EMBASSY. HE IS FAR AND AWAY THE MOST INTELLIGENT CONTACT WE HAVE FOUND ON THE ECONOMIC SCENE IN THE NORTH.

¶19. MALAM DAHIRU MUHAMMAD, MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CEO OF FIRST AFRICA MERCHANT BANK, HEADQUARTERED IN KADUNA. ACTUALLY WE TAKE THAT BACK ABOUT BORODO BEING THE "MOST INTELLIGENT," SINCE DAHIRU MUHAMMAD IS IN THE SAME CLASS. EDUCATED AT VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, DAHIRU MUHAMMAD IS AN EXCEPTIONALLY WELL-INFORMED AND OUTSPOKEN INFORMANT ON THE ECONOMIC SCENE. LONG BEFORE IT BECAME THE FASHION, HE POINTED TO THE BUDGETARY AND MONETARY POLICIES OF THE BABANGIDA REGIME THAT BANKRUPTED THE NATION AND RIDICULED THE CALLS FOR ARTIFICIAL PEGGING OF THE NAIRA. HE IS VERY OPEN TO AMERICANS AND WILLING TO MEET WITH US, OFFICIALLY OR SOCIALLY.

¶20. ISAIAH BALAT, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE KADUNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND CHAIRMAN OF SEVERAL COMPANIES BASED IN KADUNA (FINANCE, OIL SERVICES, ETC.). BALAT IS, TO US, MORE INTERESTING AS AN INTERLOCUTOR ON POLITICAL AND ETHNIC QUESTIONS THAN ON COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS. HE WAS ACTIVE IN THE SDP AND STRONGLY FOUGHT FOR ABIOLA AND JUNE 12 OVER THE SUMMER OF 1993, SEEING THE ISSUE ALMOST COMPLETELY THROUGH HIS SOUTHERN KADUNA-CHRISTIAN EYES. HE IS VERY WELL CONNECTED IN KADUNA, FRIENDLY TO AMERICANS, AND HAPPY TO SHARE HIS THOUGHTS WITH US. WE FOUND CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE ZANGON KATAF RIOTS, SINCE HE COMES FROM THAT AREA, AND, SINCE THEN, HAS WORKED ON A NUMBER OF COMMITTEES TO TRY TO GET AT THE CAUSES OF INTERCOMMUNAL TENSION IN THE STATE.

¶21. ALHAJI AUWALU ILU, PRESIDENT OF THE KANO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND BUSINESSMAN WITH INTERESTS IN CLOTH TRADING AND LPG SUPPLY. AUWALU ILU IS AN ENGAGING INTERLOCUTOR WITH HIS FINGER ON THE PULSE OF THAT PART OF THE KANO ECONOMY THAT HIS CHAMBER MOST REPRESENTS -- THE ESTABLISHED, MID-RANKING TRADER. HE IS ALWAYS GOOD FOR AN INTIMATE POLITICAL GOSSIP, BUT, OVER THE YEARS, WE HAVE FOUND THAT HE SWINGS AROUND A BIT WITH THE PREVAILING BREEZE. NEVERTHELESS, HE KNOWS EVERYBODY AND IS ALWAYS WELCOMING TO US WHEN WE DROP IN. HE HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL DURING AMBASSADORIAL VISITS TO KANO, PARTICULARLY AS HE CAN PUT TOGETHER A GROUP FOR DINNER

THAT IS ALWAYS WORTH MEETING AND TALKING TO.

¶22. ALHAJI BAWA GARBA. WHEN GOD MADE "ABG," HE BROKE THE MOLD. BAWA GARBA IS THE SATELLITE TELEVISION MOGUL OF NIGERIA, AND HAS BRANCHED INTO TELEVISION ASSEMBLY, SECURITY DEVICES AND OTHER MANUFACTURES. HE HAS A PROMOTIONAL PATTERN THAT COULD COME STRAIGHT FROM HOLLYWOOD, EXCEPT FOR THE STRONG HAUSA ACCENT. HE IS ACCESSIBLE TO AMERICANS BUT A SOMEWHAT MORE DIFFICULT CONVERSATION PARTNER THAN MOST NORTHERNERS, SINCE HE FREQUENTLY TALKS OVER HIS PARTNER.

¶23. ALHAJI KASSIM MUSA BICHI, NOW IN HIS OWN BUSINESS IN KANO BUT FORMERLY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NEW NIGERIA INVESTMENTS LIMITED, THE FINANCE BRANCH OF NNDC, THE NORTHERN STATES' HOLDING COMPANY. BICHI HAS AN M.A. IN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS FROM WILLIAMS COLLEGE AND IS FRIENDLY AND ENGAGING, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT QUICK TO ADOPT PREJUDICES (E.G. AGAINST LEBANESE AND INDIANS IN THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY) FLOATING ABOUT IN THE AIR. HE IS A DEVOUT MUSLIM, STRICTLY ADHERING TO THE DIETARY PRACTICES AND PRAYER SCHEDULES LAID DOWN, AND OBSERVING EXTRA FASTING AND NON-PHYSICAL CONTACT BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN.

POLITICS

¶24. GEORGE HOOMKWAP, SENATOR (NPP) IN THE SECOND REPUBLIC AND SDP ACTIVIST IN THE THIRD, HE WAS MOST RECENTLY A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LIAISON OFFICER FOR THE SHONKANG GROUP. HOOMKWAP COMES FROM PLATEAU STATE (GOMBEI GROUP NEAR SHENDAM) AND IS A CATHOLIC. HE IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE JIB BREWERY GROUP IN JOS AND HAS HIS OWN MULTI-PURPOSE FIRM. HOOMKWAP FULLY INTENDS TO BE IN THE POLITICAL WHIRLWIND WHENEVER IT STARTS BLOWING AGAIN, AND, ALONG WITH HIS SENIOR SOLOMON LAR, HE WILL BE AN IMPORTANT FIGURE IN PLATEAU POLITICS.

¶25. SENATOR UBA AHMED, SENATOR (NPN, THEN NRC) IN THE SECOND AND THIRD REPUBLICS, MOST RECENTLY THE SENATE MINORITY WHIP IN THE DISMISSED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. ALTHOUGH HE HAILS FROM BAUCHI STATE, HE IS ATTACHED BY HIS BUSINESS INTERESTS TO JOS AND LAGOS. HE HOPES SOON TO RESUSCITATE AN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK LOAN TO START A FISHING BUSINESS, USING BOATS PROCURED IN ALABAMA. HE IS A MOST ENGAGING FRIEND, WITH A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR. HE LIKES AMERICANS AND IS EASY TO TALK WITH, IF YOU CAN EVER TRACK HIM DOWN.

¶26. ALHAJI LEMA JIBRILU, CHAIRMAN OF A NUMBER OF KADUNA COMPANIES THAT BEAR VARIOUS TRANSMUTATIONS OF HIS INITIALS, MOSTLY BASED ON AGRIBUSINESS. JIBRILU WAS ONE OF THE FIRST CANDIDATES (NRC) IN THE FAILED PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS OF 1991-93 AND ONE OF THE GROUP OF 23 DISQUALIFIED IN THE 1992 PRIMARIES. IN THOSE PRIMARIES, JIBRILU ACTUALLY PULLED OUT AHEAD OF THE REST, ACCUSING HIS FELLOW CANDIDATES OF CORRUPT PRACTICES AND SAYING HE WOULD NOT CONTEST FURTHER. ALL THE SAME, HE WAS DISQUALIFIED ALONG WITH THE REST. HE HAS BEEN WELL-KNOWN TO SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS OF KADUNA U.S. DIPLOMATS AND IS A PERSON OF STRONG CHARACTER AND GREAT CHARM. HE IS A DEVOUT MUSLIM AND HAS A CLOSE FAMILY -- HIS TWO SONS AND DAUGHTER FROM HIS FIRST MARRIAGE (TO AN ENGLISHWOMAN) HELP RUN PARTS OF THE BUSINESS, AS WILL, PRESUMABLY, THE TWO YOUNG SONS OF HIS SECOND MARRIAGE (TO A BRAZILIAN).

THE ELDERS

¶27. NO BIOGRAPHIC WRAP-UP CABLE WOULD BE COMPLETE WITHOUT A LOOK AT THE ELDERS. THE ELDEST OF THEM ALL, ALHAJI ISA KAITA, HAS BEEN A FRIEND OF EVERY AMERICAN CONSUL GENERAL SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME. IN OUR VIEW HE HAS BEEN A LITTLE READY TO ACCEPT WHATEVER THE AUTHORITY OF THE DAY WISHES OR DECREES, NOT STANDING ON ANY EASILY VISIBLE PRINCIPLE OTHER THAN AN ACCEPTANCE

OF WHAT GOD SENDS. NEVERTHELESS, ISA KAITA IS AN INSTITUTION. THIS MAKES HIS CURRENT STATE VERY SAD, SINCE HE SUFFERED A STROKE LAST FALL WHILE ON THE LESSER PILGRIMAGE IN SAUDI ARABIA. SINCE THAT TIME HE HAS BEEN BEDRIDDEN AND UNABLE TO MOVE HIS RIGHT ARM AND LEG. ON OUR LAST CALL ON HIM, HE APPEARED DEPRESSED BY HIS CONDITION AND SOMEWHAT MORE FRAIL.

128. THE THREE FRIENDS: YAHAYA GUSAU, AHMED TALIB, AND LIMAN CIROMA. THESE THREE, LISTED IN ORDER OF SENIORITY, ARE GENERALLY CONSIDERED TOGETHER SINCE ALL SERVED IN THE CIVIL SERVICE OF THE NORTHERN REGION UNDER THE SARDAUNA. ALL THREE ARE MEN OF UPSTANDING CHARACTER AND LONG EXPERIENCE, EXCEPT IOLT CORDIAL AND UNFAILINGLY COURTEOUS. YAHAYA GUSAU, AS HIS NAME IMPLIES, COMES FROM GUSAU IN SOKOTO; AHMED TALIB FROM BORNO, AND LIMAN CIROMA FROM POTISKUM, YOBE STATE. GUSAU IS CURRENTLY THE CHANCELLOR OF BAYERO UNIVERSITY KANO, WHILE TALIB AND CIROMA SERVE AS CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARDS OF VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES. CIROMA, THE YOUNGEST, HAS BEEN A FREQUENTLY INTERLOCUTOR AND OFTEN CALLS UP WHEN SOME EVENT (EITHER OUTRAGEOUS OR WONDERFUL BY HIS LIGHT) HAS BEEN BROADCAST ON CNN.

WEINLAND